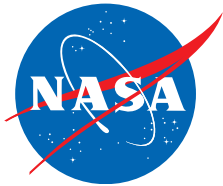


THE LABORATORY FOR TERRESTRIAL PHYSICS

2001 Annual Report



NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771



LABORATORY FOR TERRESTRIAL PHYSICS NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

2001 Annual Report



The image on the cover of the Laboratory's annual report for 2001 was produced from the MODIS Monthly Land Surface Reflectance product for November 2000. The atmospherically corrected land surface reflectance product is the basis upon which land products such as vegetation indices, land cover change and net primary productivity are derived. Dr. Eric Vermote, a faculty member at the University of Maryland who developed this product, is affiliated with the Biospheric Sciences and Information Systems Branches of this Laboratory.

The MODIS (Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is the key sensor on both the EOS Terra and EOS Aqua spacecraft. Each day the MODIS instrument provides nearly full global coverage at spatial resolutions from 250m to 1km. Raw data collected in thirty-six spectral bands is used to produce 44 products used by scientists studying changes globally, on land and in the oceans and atmosphere.

In 2001, MODIS products were produced with improved science algorithms for the period from October 2000 through December 2001. On average over 1,200 billion bytes of data products were generated each day by the MODIS Adaptive Processing System (MODAPS) developed and operated by this Laboratory. In addition to producing MODIS science products, scientists in this Laboratory have calibrated and characterized the instrument, led the testing and integration of science software into production systems, assessed product quality and led field experiments to validate MODIS product accuracy.

This year also saw the Laboratory's development of data systems for near real-time MODIS data production. The first was a system for fire detection and fire mapping, Rapidfire, developed in collaboration with the University of Maryland and the US Forest Service. The second was a near-real time processing system for NOAA used for rapid generation of daily MODIS products for Air Force mission planning and fishery and wildlife habitat monitoring.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
Introduction	1
Our Mission and Place within NASA	2
Organizational Structure	3
Staff	3
Facilities	5
Laboratory Safety	9
Biospheric Sciences	11
Remote Sensing Research	11
<i>AErosol RObotic NETwork (AERONET)</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Interdisciplinary Study of Environmental Effects on Childhood Asthma</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>VHF Radar Mapping of Forest Biomass in Panama</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>A Forest Inventory of Delaware Using Airborne Laser Data</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Global Inventory, Mapping and Monitoring Studies (GIMMS)</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Global Carbon Cycle Science Planning</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Global Carbon Cycle Science and Biosphere – Atmosphere Interactions</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>A Carbon Balance Approach to Measuring Human Impacts on the Biodiversity and Carrying Capacity of Ecosystems</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>NASA/USDA Fluorescence Project</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Comprehensive Mapping of Northeast China Forests</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Siberian Disturbance Mapping Project</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Siberian Leaf Area Index Study (SibLAI)</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>EO-1 Science Validation Effort and Hyperspectral Canopy Reflectance Modeling</i>	<i>36</i>
Satellite Programs	38
<i>Earth Observing-1 (EO-1)</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Earth Observing System (EOS) Terra</i>	<i>41</i>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP)</i>	42
Landsat 7 Science and Applications Users	44
<i>Capturing the Promise</i>	46
<i>Landsat</i>	47
<i>Landsat Calibration</i>	49
<i>Landsat Science Results</i>	50
<i>Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM)</i>	54
Field Campaigns	55
<i>Large-Scale Biosphere Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia (LBA)</i>	55
<i>Southern Africa Regional Science Initiative (SAFARI) 2000 and the Southern Africa Validation of EOS (SAVE)</i>	56
2001 Refereed Publications	59
2001 Conference Proceedings	63
Proposals	67
Awards	68
Biospheric Sciences Branch External Review Committee	68
Geodynamics and Space Geodesy	69
Geomagnetism	70
<i>Comprehensive Models of the Earth's Magnetic Field</i>	70
<i>New Satellite Magnetometer Observations Help Answer Some Old Questions</i>	72
<i>Satellite Altitude Magnetic Anomaly Study of the Kiruna, Sweden Iron-Ore Deposit</i>	74
<i>Geomagnetic Field and Geodynamo Modeling</i>	76
<i>The South Atlantic Anomaly</i>	77
<i>Geomagnetic Field</i>	78
<i>Geomagnetic time variations in the Indian Ocean</i>	79
Crustal Deformation	80
<i>Crustal Deformation and Earthquake Hazard at Kodiak Island, Alaska</i>	80

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Tectonic Plate Coupling and Elastic Thickness from Space Geodetic Measurements of Crustal Movements</i>	82
<i>Satellite Laser Ranging Measurements of Vertical Motion</i>	85
Topography and Surface Change	87
<i>Puget Sound Faults and Earthquake Hazards</i>	87
<i>ICESat Laser Altimetry: Calibration Techniques for Precision Geolocation for ICESat-Waveform and Profile Matching to Digital Elevation Models</i>	88
<i>"Exploring Space, Exploring Earth: New Understanding of the Earth"</i>	89
Mars Geology and Geophysics	91
<i>Ancient Lowlands on Mars</i>	91
<i>New Perspectives on the Enigmatic Medusae Fossae Formation, Mars</i>	94
<i>Recent Floods and Volcanism in the Cerberus Plains, Mars</i>	97
<i>GRIDVIEW: Interactive Software for Analyzing Gridded Data</i>	99
<i>Magnetic Spectra of Earth and Mars</i>	101
<i>Valles Marineris May Provide a Key to Understanding Early Mars</i>	103
<i>Geopotential Solutions from Mars Global Surveyor Tracking Data</i>	104
<i>Topography and Gravity of Mars</i>	105
Orbital-Rotational-Climatic Interactions	106
<i>Yarkovsky Effects and the Orbital Evolution of Asteroids and Meteoroids</i>	107
<i>Obliquity Modulation of the Incoming Solar Radiation</i>	109
<i>Tidal Dissipation in Mercury</i>	110
Precise Orbit Determination, Gravity Field, and Terrestrial Reference Frame ..	112
<i>Precision Orbit Determination (POD)</i>	113
<i>Terrestrial Reference Frame (TRF) from Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) for Mass Transport in the Earth System</i>	116
Global Geophysical Fluids and Their Mass Transports	117
<i>Global Geophysical Fluids Center (GGFC) and Research Activities</i>	117
<i>Subdaily Tidal Variations in Earth Rotation</i>	120

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Atmospheric Torques on the Solid Earth and Oceans Based on the GEOS-1 General Circulation Model</i>	121
<i>Time-Variable Gravity and Geophysical Cause</i>	122
<i>Core Flow and Core-Mantle Interactions</i>	124
Planetary Missions	125
<i>Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter - MOLA</i>	125
<i>MERcury Surface, Space ENvironment, Geochemistry, and Ranging (MESSENGER)</i>	127
2001 Refereed Publications	128
2001 Conference Proceedings	130
2001 Presentations & Seminars	131
Laser Measurements & Technology	143
Geoscience Technology Office	143
<i>SLR2000 Autonomous Satellite Laser Ranging Station</i>	145
<i>Interplanetary Laser Transponders</i>	146
<i>Airborne Multikilohertz Microlaser Altimeter</i>	147
<i>Vegetation Canopy Lidar</i>	148
<i>Laser Diode-Based Single Longitudinal Mode (SLM) Seeder for Nd:YAG Lasers</i>	150
<i>Passively Q-Switched Yb:YAG laser transmitter</i>	151
Space Geodesy and Sensor Calibration Office	151
<i>International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS)</i>	152
<i>NASA Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) Network</i>	156
<i>International VLBI Service</i>	157
<i>The NASA Geodetic VLBI Program</i>	158
<i>Calibration Facility</i>	162
<i>Diffuser Calibration Facility</i>	166
<i>EOS Calibration</i>	171
<i>MODIS Calibration Support Team (MCST)</i>	174

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Laser Remote Sensing Branch	177
<i>Geoscience Laser Altimeter System (GLAS) for the ICESat Mission</i>	<i>177</i>
<i>GLAS Laser Transmitter</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>GLAS Stellar Reference System (SRS)</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Mercury Laser Altimeter (MLA)</i>	<i>184</i>
<i>Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (MOLA)</i>	<i>186</i>
<i>Water Vapor Raman Lidar</i>	<i>188</i>
<i>Raman Airborne Spectroscopic Lidar (RASL)</i>	<i>188</i>
<i>Laser Vegetation Imaging Sensor (LVIS)</i>	<i>190</i>
<i>Mixed Layer Lidar Remote sensing of the Ocean's Boundary Layer</i>	<i>191</i>
<i>Laser Sounder Technique for Remotely Measuring Atmospheric CO₂</i> <i>Concentrations</i>	<i>193</i>
<i>Miniature Lidar at Remote Sites in Antarctica</i>	<i>196</i>
<i>Simplesat Optical Microsatellite Experiment</i>	<i>197</i>
2001 Refereed Publications	199
2001 Conference Proceedings	199
2001 Presentations & Seminars	200
Awards	201
Terrestrial Information Systems	203
<i>Global data processing for MODIS</i>	<i>203</i>
<i>The MODIS Land Data Operational Product Evaluation (LDOPE) Facility</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>Ozone Measuring Instrument (OMI)</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (CDDIS)</i>	<i>206</i>
<i>MODIS Rapid Response System</i>	<i>208</i>
<i>MODIS Validation - EOS Land Validation Core Sites</i>	<i>209</i>
<i>Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Studies of Vector-borne Disease</i>	<i>211</i>
2001 Refereed Publications	222
2001 Conference Proceedings	222

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2001 Presentations & Seminars	223
Education/Public Outreach	225
GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to benefit the Environment)	225
IMAGERS (Interactive Multimedia Adventures for Grade-school Education using Remote Sensing)	226
EOS Terra Rapid Response	227
University Programs	229
Formal (K-12, Undergraduate and Graduate) Education and Outreach	229
Informal (Parks, Museums, Visitor or Technology Centers) Education and Outreach	232
Conferences, Presentations, and Seminars	233
Strategic Plan for the Future	237
Acknowledgements	239
Appendix 1 - Visitors & Summer Personnel	241
Visitors for the Biospheric Sciences Branch	241
Summer Personnel for Biospheric Sciences Branch	245
Appendix 2 - Acronyms	246
Appendix 3 - Grants, Contracts, Co-operative Agreements	248

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to acquaint yourself with the Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics and our accomplishments for 2001!

The Laboratory advances NASA programs through the exploration of Earth and planetary solid-body physics. These explorations involve the physics and dynamics of the Earth, as well as of the planets and their satellites. The Lab's innovative and exciting programs study the global properties of the solid Earth, global and regional scale vegetation monitoring, biosphere-atmosphere interactions, and laser remote sensing.

The Laboratory's Biospheric Sciences program encompasses a broad range of basic and applied research to study terrestrial ecosystems and their interactions with the atmosphere using multi-scale remote sensing, modeling, and advanced analytical techniques. Experiments and investigations utilizing new techniques and capabilities enhance our understanding of global processes for Earth System Science.

The Laboratory's "geophysical and geodynamic" studies span a wide range of subjects in the research of both the Earth and solid planetary bodies, especially Mars. Present-day measurements using both surface and satellite data, models derived from these, and other observational and theoretical information, are used to help improve our understanding of the evolution of the core, mantle and crust, and their interactions with surface topography.

The Laboratory's laser measurement research studies new techniques based on analysis and tests with airborne and spaceborne instruments. Accordingly, this area links the scientific requirements to define, design, build, and demonstrate instruments for Earth and planetary remote-sensing science programs. The laser research itself is focused on improving the understanding of electro-optical sensor physics, and the propagation environment. Additional technological skills are employed in the development of advance techniques for defining subsystem performance through the development and engineering of flight instruments, and the calibration and characterization of these instruments in realistic environments.

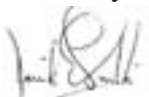
The Laboratory's information processing research focuses on developing reliable, low-cost computing systems for the production, distribution, and analysis of regional and global data sets. The Laboratory's information technology improves the security and reliability of the computing environment.

Ultimately, our activities result in the advance of scientific knowledge. To this point, the Laboratory relies on its key personnel - its scientists and researchers - to report their results in conferences, symposia, and publications. Interaction with the national and international scientific community is essential, and integrally a part of our Laboratory's efforts.

This comprehensive report includes our philosophy, an overview of our dedicated staff, and descriptions of our projects, with synopses of the Laboratory's achievements and accomplishments for 2001. This report encompasses the Laboratory's dedication to human resources, their scientific interactions, and outreach activities with the outside community.

Please take some time to peruse this report, and contact me or my staff if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,



David E. Smith
Chief, Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics

INTRODUCTION

Our Mission and Place within NASA

Mission: The Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in Earth and planetary science, by conducting innovative research using space technology.

The Laboratory's mission and activities support the work and new initiatives at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). The Laboratory's success contributes to the Earth Science Directorate as a national resource and a Center of Excellence for studies of Earth from Space. The Laboratory is part of the Earth Science Directorate based at the GSFC in Greenbelt, MD. The Directorate itself is comprised of the Global Change Data Center (GCDC), the Space Data and Computing Division (SDCD), and four science Laboratories, including Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics, Laboratory for Atmospheres, and Laboratory for Hydrospheric Processes all in Greenbelt, MD. The fourth research organization, Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), is in New York, NY.

Relevant to NASA's Strategic Plan (September 2000), the Laboratory ensures that all work undertaken and completed is within the vision of GSFC. The philosophy of the Laboratory is to balance the completion of near term goals, while building on the Laboratory's achievements as a foundation for the scientific challenges in the future.

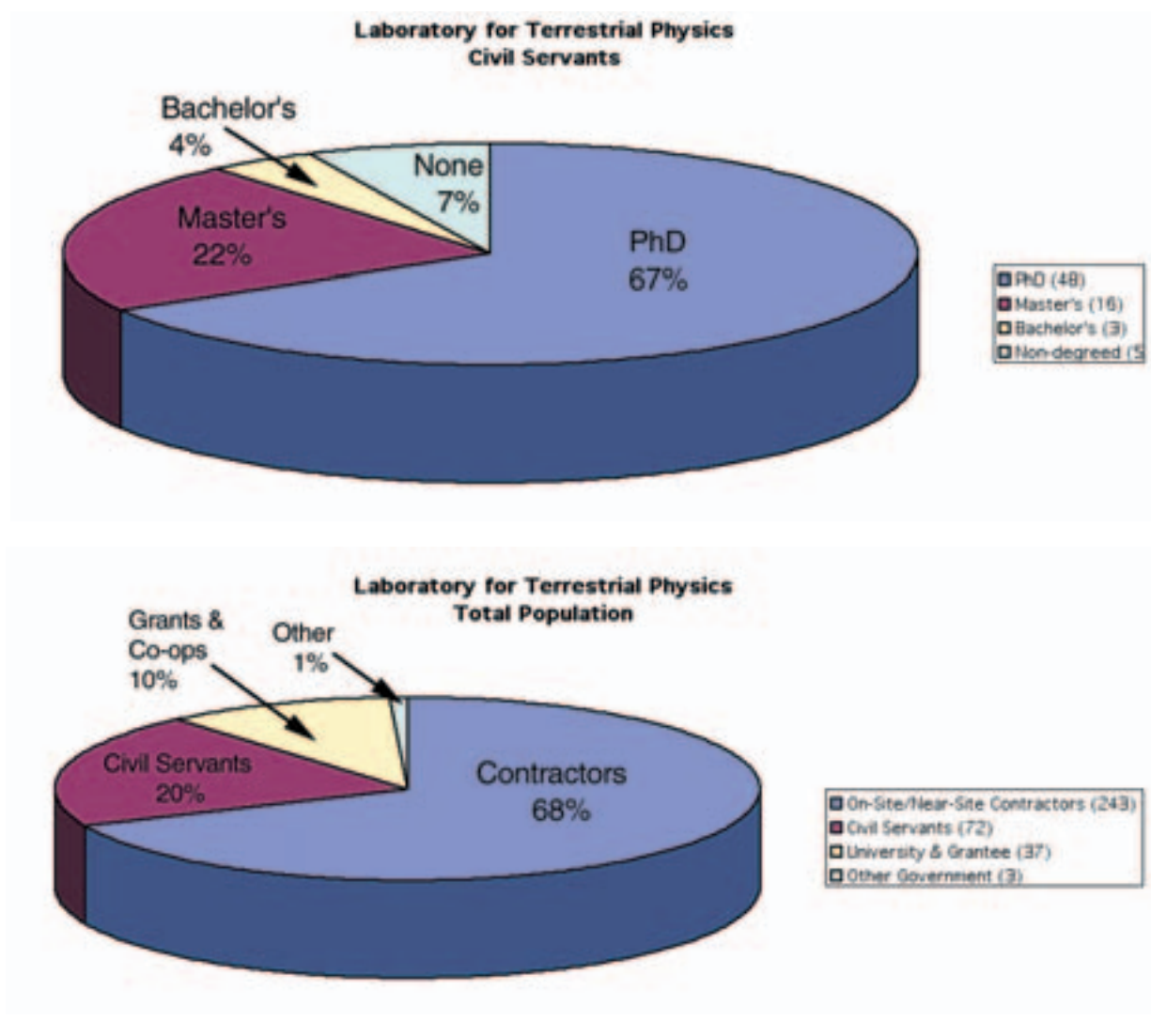
For your convenience, we have published this report on the Internet at the following link:
<http://ltpwww.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Organizational Structure

The Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics is one of 3 scientific divisions within the Earth Sciences Directorate, sharing research with the Laboratory for Hydrospheric Processes and Laboratory for Atmospheres, and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

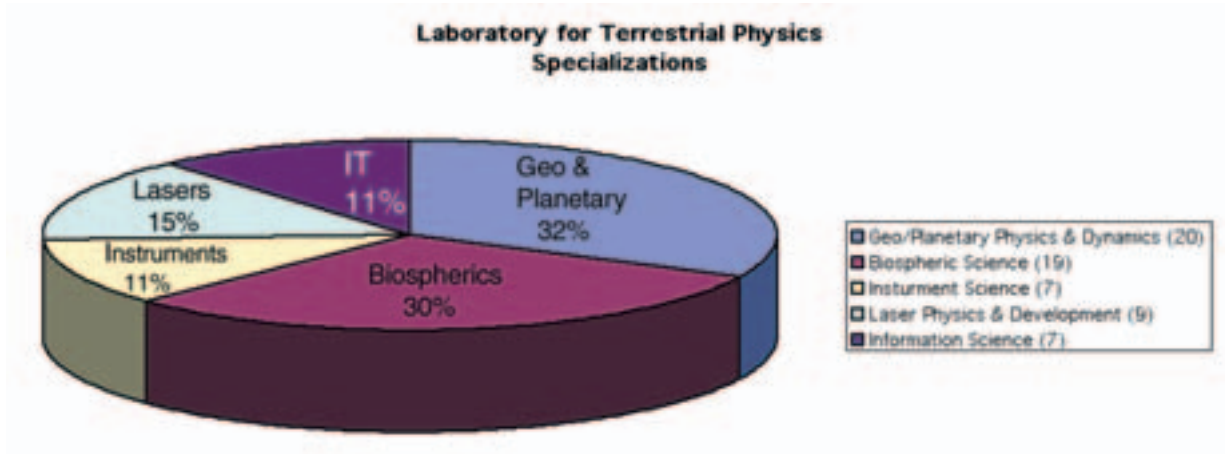
Staff

The Laboratory hosts 72 civil servants (67 full-time permanent), and 243 supporting contractors, which are on site or near site. University grants and cooperative agreements draw 37 additional scientists and technologists. There are 3 additional employees from other government agencies who are long-term residents within the Laboratory. The average age of a Laboratory civil servant is 50, and the average age of all professionals is 51. Ages range from 26 (secretary) or 33 (researcher) to 76. For the civil servants within the Laboratory, the average length of government service is over 20 years; a majority of those have spent their entire time within the Laboratory. This may be taken as an indicator that the Laboratory is a "good place to work".

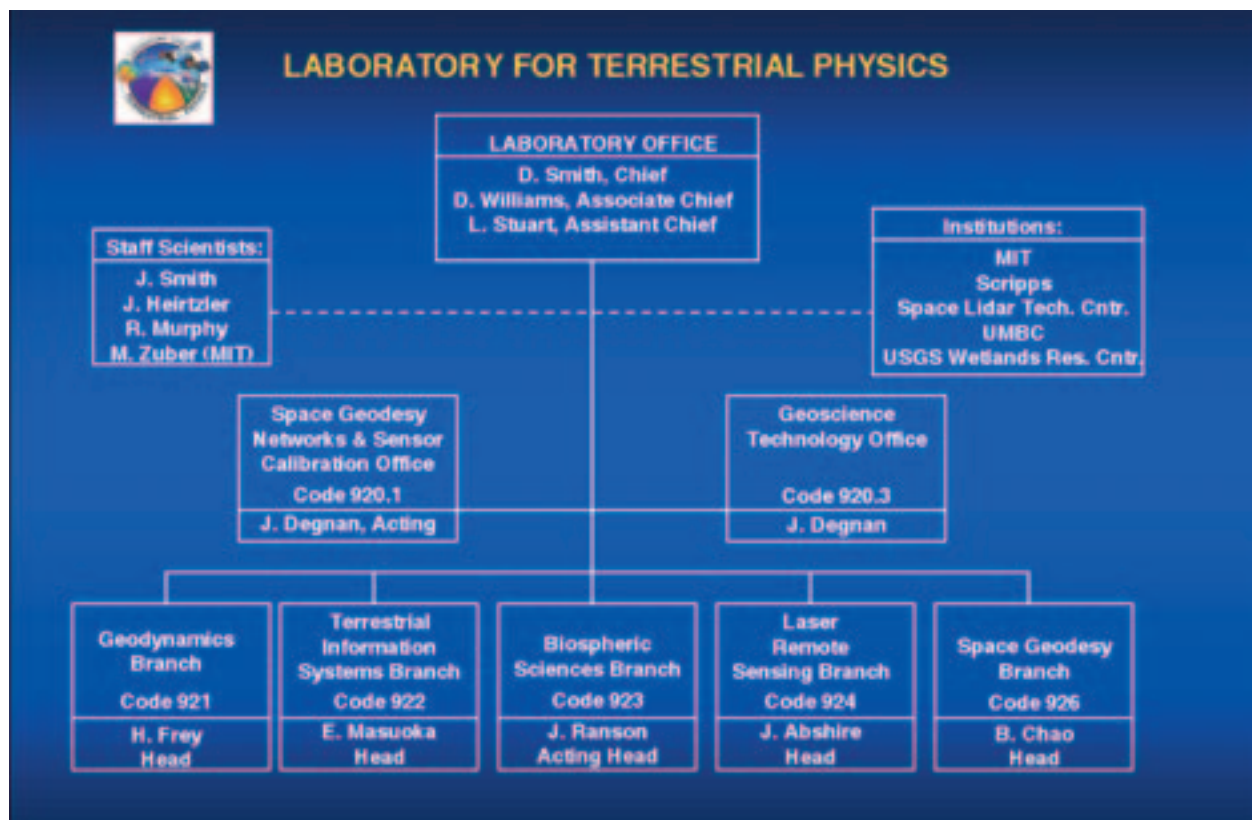


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

There are many different professional skills represented within the Laboratory. As a gross summary, there are 20 researchers in geo/planetary physics and dynamics; 19 in biospheric sciences; 9 in laser physics and development; and 7 each in instrument science and information science. Additionally, there are 10 employees who devote the majority of their time to administrative tasks, from project science to office administration.



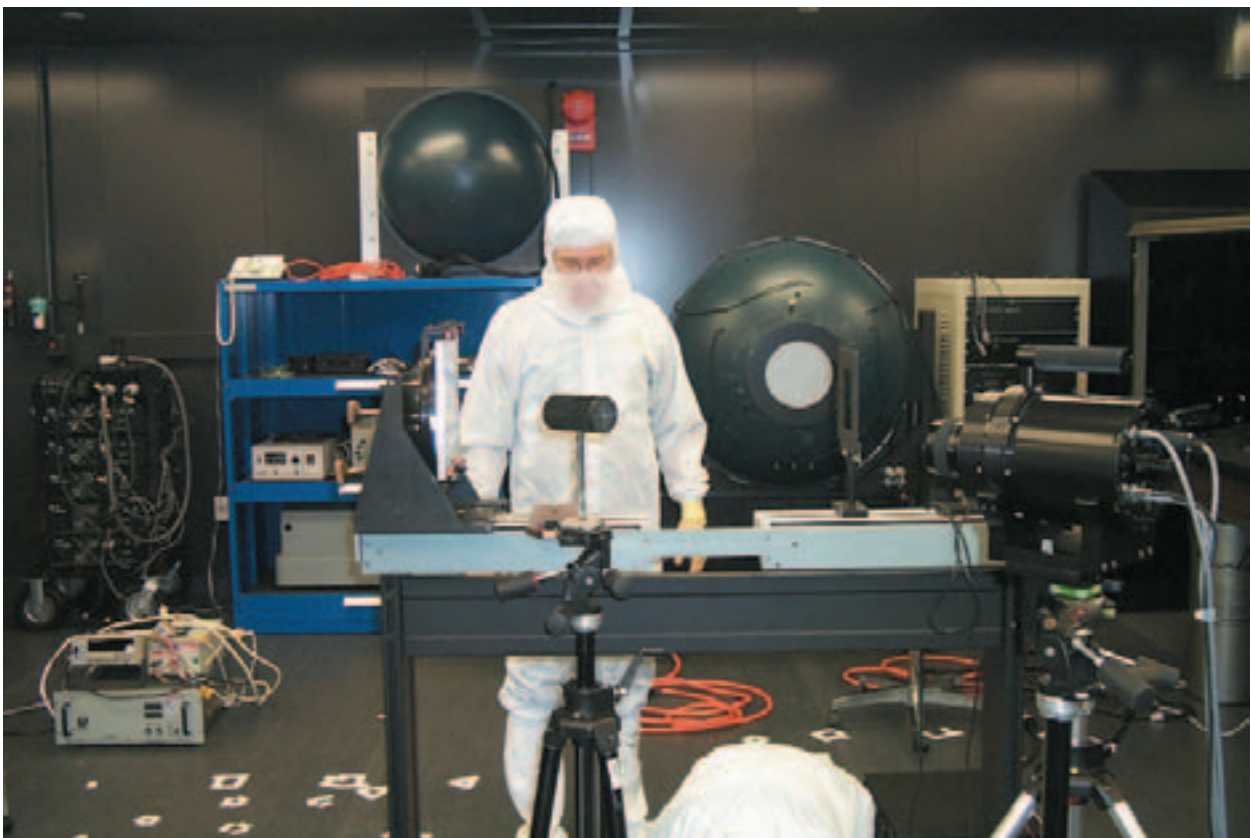
The Laboratory is composed of 5 branches, 2 offices, 4 staff scientists, and a large number of cooperating institutions. Particularly notable in the latter category are MIT, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore Campus; Scripps Institute of Oceanography (one Laboratory employee is permanently located there), the U.S. Geological Survey, and International Laser Ranging and Very Long Baseline Interferometer services. Branches range in size from 7 to 20 employees; offices from 3 to 5.



Facilities

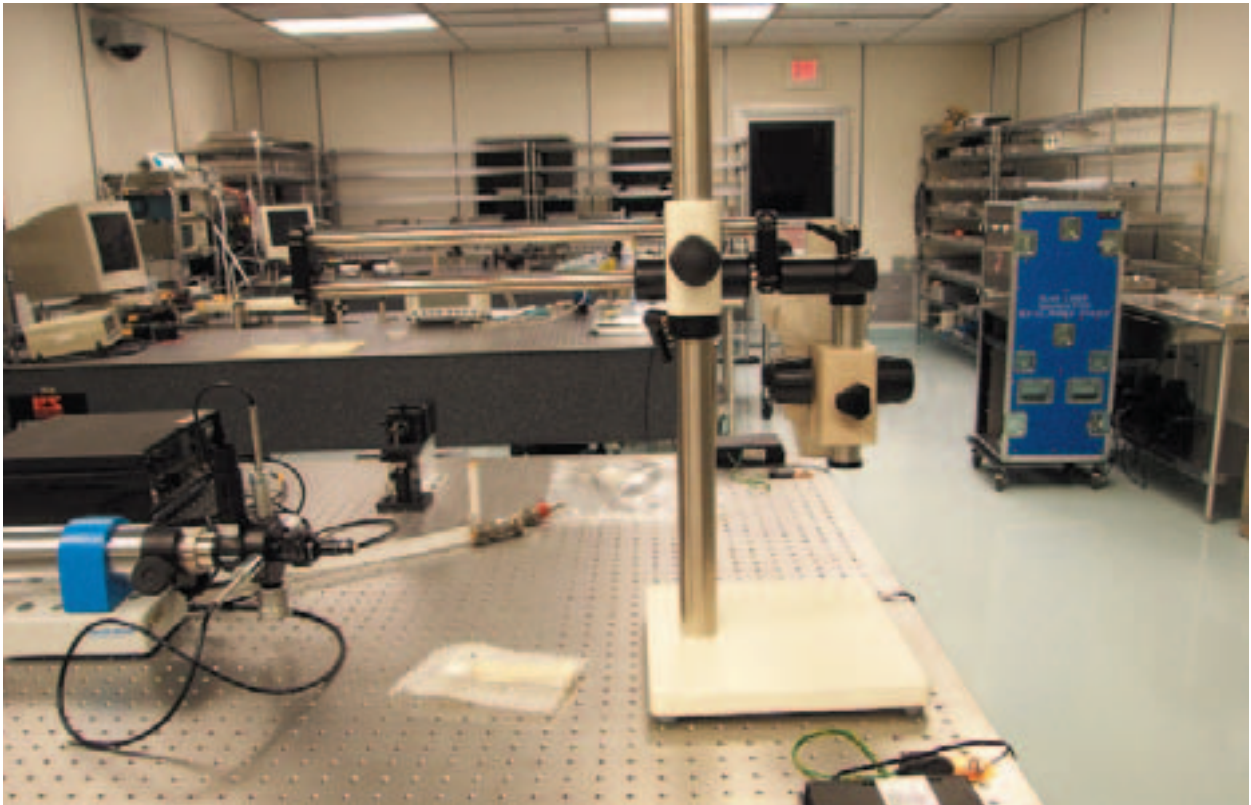
Facilities are both sophisticated and diverse. There are "wet" and "dry" labs, and computer facilities, connected with Biospheric Science. Information Systems boasts a large computer center capable of processing one of the largest and most complex streams of data from space, as well as another center which provides computational and graphic services for all Laboratory personnel. Laser labs and facilities are involved in pioneering research in laser theory and design, and in building and operating lasers for surface, aircraft, and spacecraft deployment. Instrument calibration facilities are carefully maintained and uniquely or precisely instrumented. Many facilities are here at Goddard; others are nearby, and still others (i.e., satellite laser ranging) are located globally.

Some examples of facilities are shown below.



Visible Spectrum Instrument Calibration Facility

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Space Flight Laser Assembly and Test Clean Room



Mechanical Laboratory With 4 Axis Precision



MODIS Data Processing System Computer Facility



Laser Detector Characterization Laboratory

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Laser Testing Vacuum Chamber at the Space Lidar Technology Center



Satellite Laser Ranging Automated Tracking Facility

Laboratory Safety

The Laboratory is committed to maintaining a safe environment for its employees. This is accomplished through the appointment of a Laboratory Safety Officer, and the formation of a Laboratory Safety Committee, with representatives from each organizational unit.

Office safety concentrates on maintaining a healthy, accident-free environment, with concerns about ergonomics, combustible loading, free sprinkler system access, falling objects, and non-restricted egress.

Safety of laboratories depends upon proper use and storage of chemicals, laser containment and safeguards, electrical protection, careful maintenance of clean rooms, and all the components involved in office safety.

The Laboratory is pleased to announce that there have been no lost days, nor damaged major equipment, due to accidents in the past year.